

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 24, 1848.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ATCHISON made the following

REPORT:

[To accompany Joint R. S. No. 7.]

*The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Jonathan Lewis, make the following report :*

It appears from the petition, affidavits, certificates and letters, referred to the committee, that the petitioner settled himself in the Flint district, in the country of the Cherokee Indians, in the year 1839, for the purpose of pursuing his trade as a blacksmith. This was done at the instance of many of the Cherokees ; and, by permission of the United States agent for the Cherokees, he remained in the country, following his business, until the year 1843, when he left the country. It is proved to the satisfaction of the committee that, during the time the petitioner remained in the Flint district, at various times he lost property—such as horses, oxen, corn, blacksmiths' tools, iron, and a wagon—and that a portion of this property was taken by force, a portion by stealth, and the remainder wantonly destroyed by fire; and that this was done by persons belonging to the tribe of Cherokee Indians. It also appears that the petitioner has made various efforts, through the United States agent, to obtain redress for the injuries done by the Cherokees, but without success. The matter has also been laid before the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, but with no better success. The petitioner now appeals to Congress for indemnity ; and the committee being of the opinion that he has sustained damages in the premises, and that the government should indemnify him, report the accompanying resolution.

